fallen syndicate

presents

Q

by Shihira Tatsuya

chapter 8

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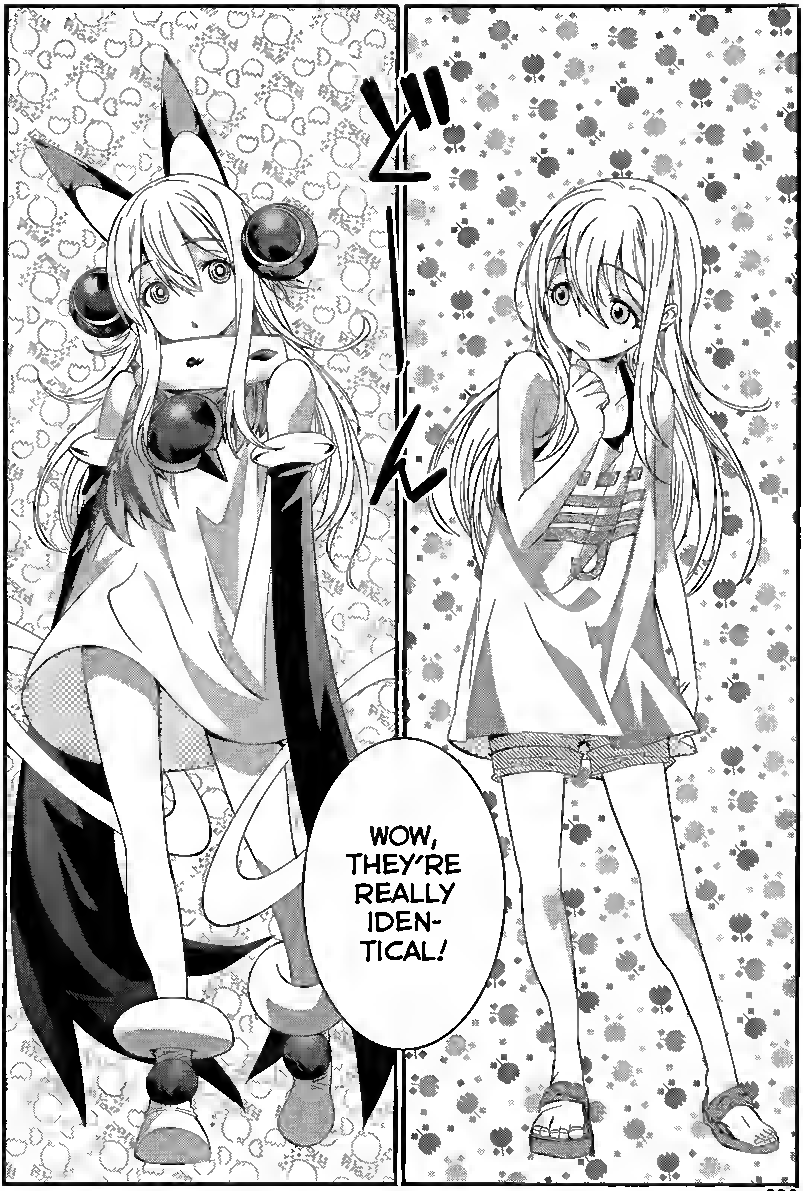
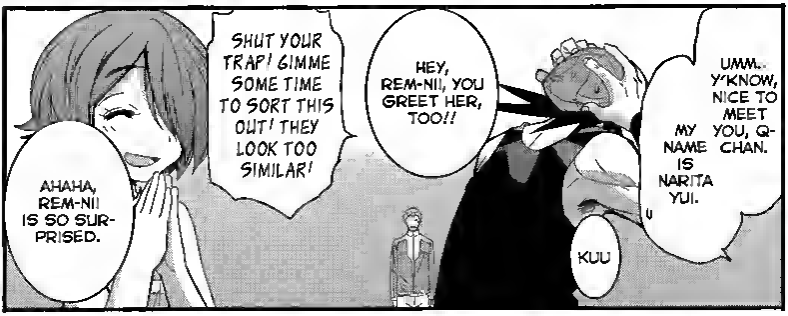
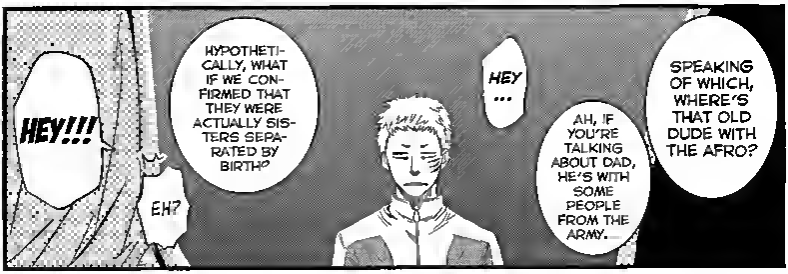
RECRUITING TRANSLATORS!!

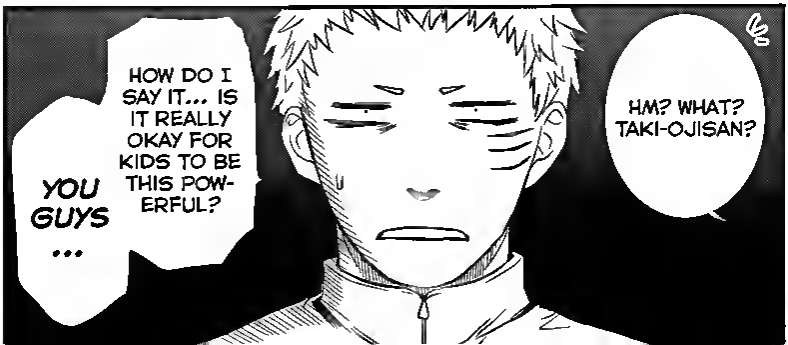
#8 JUST WHAT IS IT THAT'S COMING?
MONSTER EXTERMINATION SPECIALISTS...?
[クー]
シヒラ竜也


SFX TA-DA!
WOW, THEY'RE REALLY IDEN-TICAL!

S-SHE DOES LOOK LIKE ME.
W-WHO IS THIS GIRL?
HUH.
IF I PUT THEM RIGHT NEXT TO EACH OTHER, I DON'T THINK I'D BE ABLE TO TELL THEM APART.
SHE'S Q-CHAN.


SHUT YOUR TRAP! GIMME SOME TIME TO SORT THIS OUT! THEY LOOK TOO SIMILAR!
HEY, REM-NII, YOU GREET HER, TOO!!
UMM.. Y'KNOW, NICE TO MEET YOU, Q-CHAN. MY NAME IS NARITA YUI.
AHAHA, REM-NII IS SO SURPRISED.
KUU


HEY!!!
EH?
HYPOTHETICALLY, WHAT IF WE CONFIRMED THAT THEY WERE ACTUALLY SISTERS SEPARATED BY BIRTH?
HEY ...
AH, IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT DAD, HE'S WITH SOME PEOPLE FROM THE ARMY.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE'S THAT OLD DUDE WITH THE AFRO?


YOU GUYS ...
HOW DO I SAY IT... IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR KIDS TO BE THIS POWERFUL?
HM? WHAT? TAKI-OJISAN?

UWAAA!!
HUH? REALLY?
HOW CAN YOU KIDS LAUGH AFTER DOING "THAT"...

IT'S HERE!! IT'S YAKU-MO!!!
RUN AWAYYY!
SAVE US!
SFX KWAA

SFX ROAR
キィィィィ
THAT'S ...

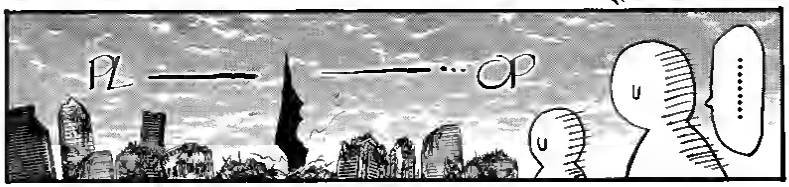
SFX: CRACKLE
Q-CHAN!?

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, IT'S Q-CHAN!
Q-CHAN IS FIGHTING!
SFX: WOOSH

SFX KA-BOO-BOO-BOOM
COULD IT BE...
WHAT'RE YA DOIN' SHORTY, YER JUST RUNNIN' AWAY!
YA NEED TA GET AWAY FROM THIS'ERE CITY!!!
KUU

SHE DID IT!
BUT IT'S GOING TO FALL ONTO THE CITY!
SNAP
SFX SLASH

SFX: KERBLOOM


.....
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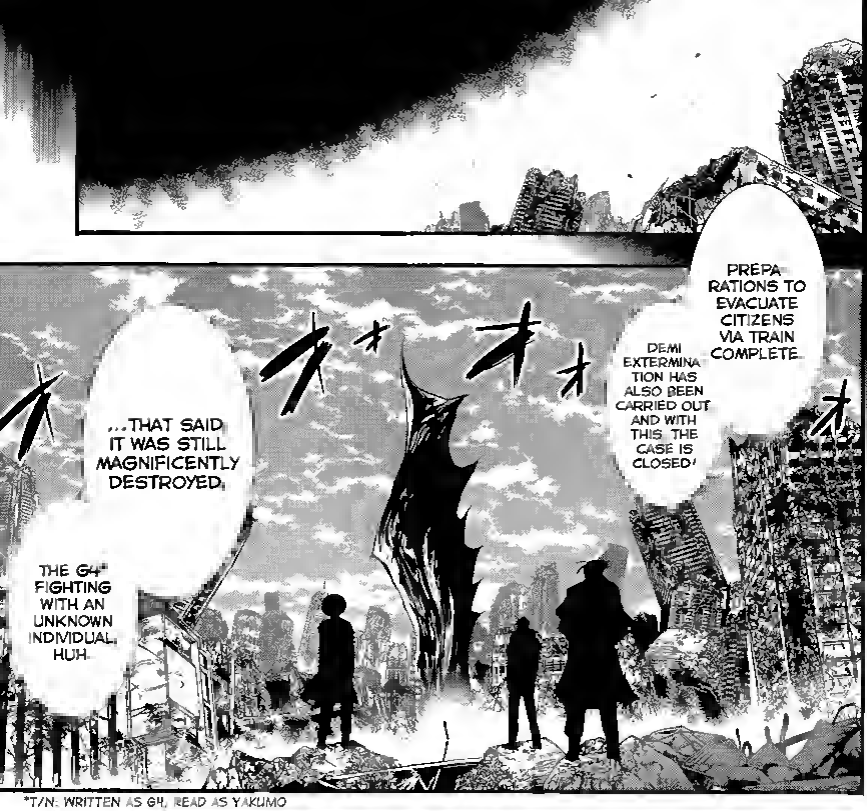
... DON'T LEAVE YOUR LEFT-OVERS BEHIND.
NO, THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
WELL, AT LEAST THERE WASN'T TOO MUCH DAMAGE.
I mean, the city is a mess but...
... YOU'RE WRONG.
!

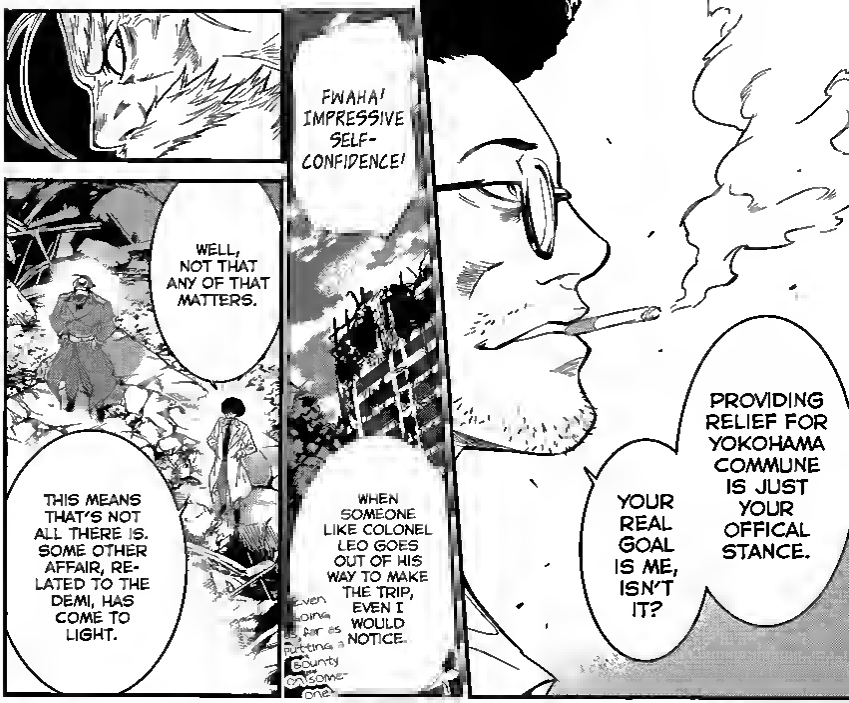
What's that?!
SFX: CHATTER CHATTER
Q-CHAN, SHE...
PRO-TECTED
EVERY-ONE.
SFX: CHATTER CHATTER

BA
KUU
!
THAT POSE MEANS ...
Q RAN-GERS!
HA!
.....


PREPARATIONS TO EVACUATE CITIZENS VIA TRAIN COMPLETE.
DEMI EXTERMINATION HAS ALSO BEEN CARRIED OUT AND WITH THIS THE CASE IS CLOSED!
...THAT SAID, IT WAS STILL MAGNIFICENTLY DESTROYED.
THE G4* FIGHTING WITH AN UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL, HUH.

*T/N: WRITTEN AS 6H, READ AS YAKUMO

WA HA HA HA
... AS FOR ME, IF THESE DEMI WEREN'T AROUND, I WOULD BE COMPLETELY FINE JUST LIVING OUT MY DAYS IN THESE RUINS...
...BUT. WE CAN'T. HAVE. THAT. CAN. WE?
!
AS A TESTAMENT TO THE ARMY'S GLORIOUS VICTORY!
AS LONG AS THE RESULT IS GOOD, EVERYTHING ELSE IS FINE. SHOULD WE ERECT A COMMORATIVE PLAQUE?
ALLY OR ENEMY? SHE'S UNIDENTIFIED... SHOULD WE TEMPORARILY LABEL HER AS AN "UNKNOWN"?

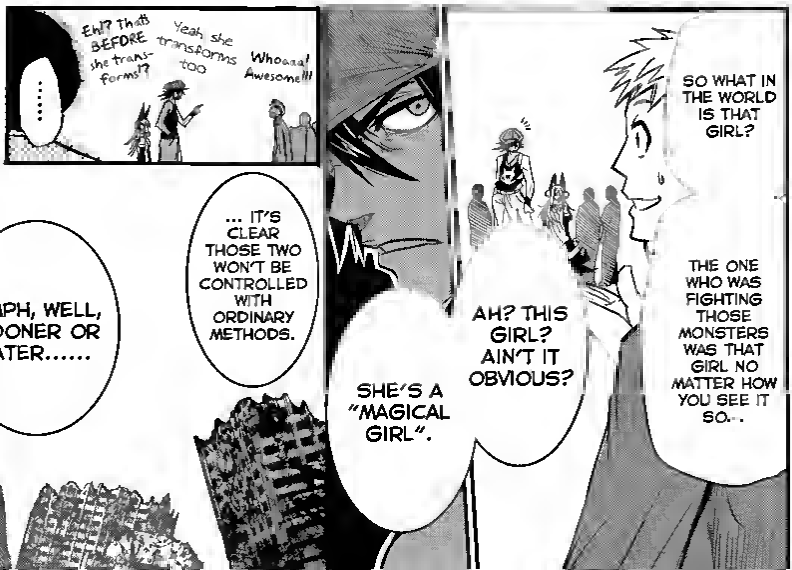

PROVIDING RELIEF FOR YOKOHAMA COMMUNE IS JUST YOUR OFFICAL STANCE.
YOUR REAL GOAL IS ME, ISN'T IT?
FWAHA! IMPRESSIVE SELF-CONFIDENCE!
WHEN SOMEONE LIKE COLONEL LEO GOES OUT OF HIS WAY TO MAKE THE TRIP, EVEN I WOULD NOTICE.
WELL, NOT THAT ANY OF THAT MATTERS.
THIS MEANS THAT'S NOT ALL THERE IS. SOME OTHER AFFAIR, RELATED TO THE DEMI, HAS COME TO LIGHT.

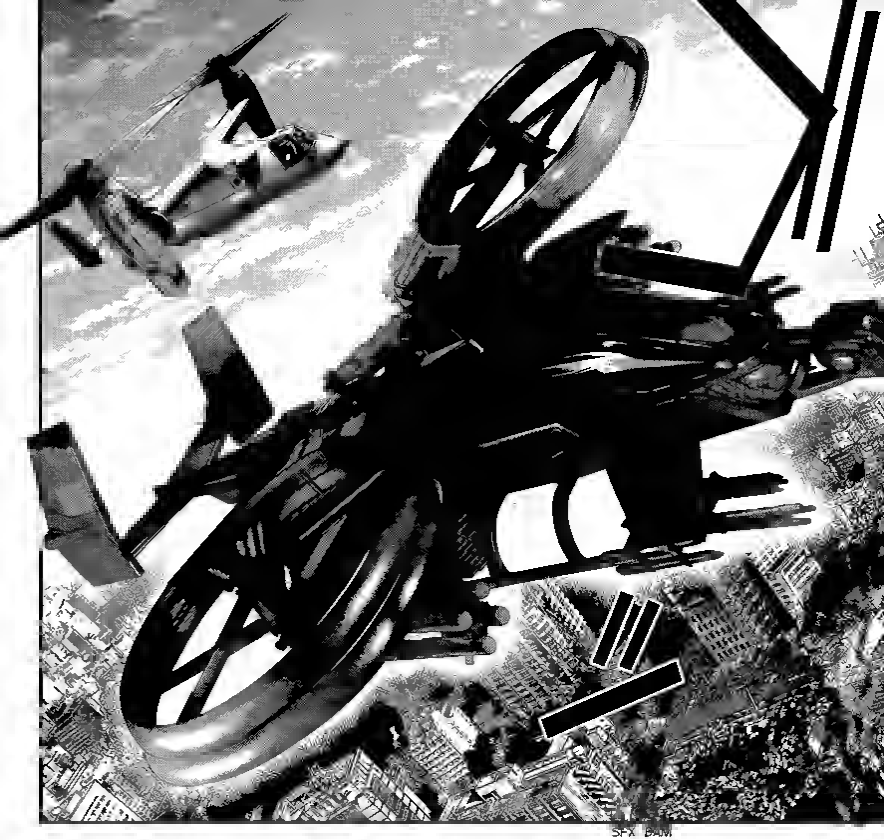
IF THAT'S ALL, I'LL GO WITH YOU.
ALSO, THERE NEEDS TO BE CHOCO GRISBYS
FWAHAHA, NO OBJECTIONS!
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, I JUST LIKE DANGEROUS THINGS LIKE GAMBLING DENS!

... ISN'T THERE SOMETHING ELSE, AS WELL?
I WAS ALSO ABLE TO DO THAT "TEST" CONCURRENTLY!
THE SUBJECT IN QUESTION PUT THE G3 IN THE GROUND, AND MOREOVER THE G4 WAS TAKEN CARE OF BY AN "UNKNOWN"! THIS IS CERTAINLY WHAT ONE WOULD CALL AN "EASY MARK".
SCOUTING NEW FORCES!
I HEARD FROM A CERTAIN INFORMATION BROKER THAT A HIGHLY CAPABLE PERSON WOULD BE HERE, AND I MADE CONTACT WITH HIM...
SFX: WOOO
INDEED!
... SO YOU'RE SCOUTING FOR THE NDF?
IF THERE ARE THOSE ABLE TO BE UTILIZED, THEN THEY'LL BE UTILIZED BY THE ARMY!
POWERFUL PAWNS ARE SOMETHING I'LL DO ANYTHING TO FIND
OF COURSE!
.....
YOU SURE LOOK HAPPY.

SFX: WAAA
---THOSE WHO HAVE BECOME THE HOPE OF THE PEOPLE.

SFX: SHOVE SHOVE
Don't need that shit
You're the one that defeated the monsters? Here, take these.
SFX: HAHAHAHA
AS LONG AS THEY CAN BE CONTROLLED WELL.
Are you his sister? How old are you?
?


Eh!? That's BEFORE she transforms?
Yeah, she transforms too
Whoaaa! Awesome!!!
.....
SO WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT GIRL?
THE ONE WHO WAS FIGHTING THOSE MONSTERS WAS THAT GIRL NO MATTER HOW YOU SEE IT SO...
AH? THIS GIRL? AIN'T IT OBVIOUS?
SHE'S A "MAGICAL GIRL".
... IT'S CLEAR THOSE TWO WON'T BE CONTROLLED WITH ORDINARY METHODS.
HMPH, WELL, SOONER OR LATER.....


SFX: BAM

WELL THEN, EVERYONE,
TAKE CARE.
YEAH.
SEE YOU, YUI-CHAN.

SFX WHOOM WHOOM WHOOM
... IT'S NICE THAT YUI-CHAN AND THE REST ARE GOING BACK IN A HELI-COPTER.
JEEZ... IF REM-NII WASN'T SO DARNED STUBBORN, WE COULD HAVE RIDDEN TO-GETHER.
GEH.
WHEN IS THE TRAIN DEPART-ING?
HMM... IN ABOUT 30 MIN-UTES.
.....
... WHAT'S WRONG, AYATA?
WELL, THE THING IS, AFTER THAT TIME...
WE LOOKED INTO THE TRAIN'S CABIN AND IN THE LINES, BUT WE WEREN'T ABLE TO FIND THE PERSON WHO COMMISSIONED US...
AT THIS RATE, IF WE GO BACK NOW, WE WON'T HAVE ANY RE-SULTS, AND WE'LL NEED TO APOLOGIZE TO THOSE TWO.

I guess it's to be expected, that without Q-chan, the Q Rangers are worthless.
GAAA
Just like Take-ojisan.
You in the ie* sound or something?
KEEP ME OUT OF THIS.
SFX THWACK
*T/N THIS IS A REFERENCE THAT IS LOST ON ME SORRY
REM-NII?
IT'S TOO EARLY TO BEAT YOURSELF UP, DIP-STICK.
USE THAT TINY HEAD OF YOURS.
EH...?
THEY COULD HAVE CROAKED IT SOMEWHERE...
OR THEY'VE BEEN CAPTURED BY SOME-ONE.
SINCE THEY'RE NOT IN THE CABIN AND WE CAN'T FIND THEM ANYWHERE, THERE ARE TWO POSSIBILITIES.
!

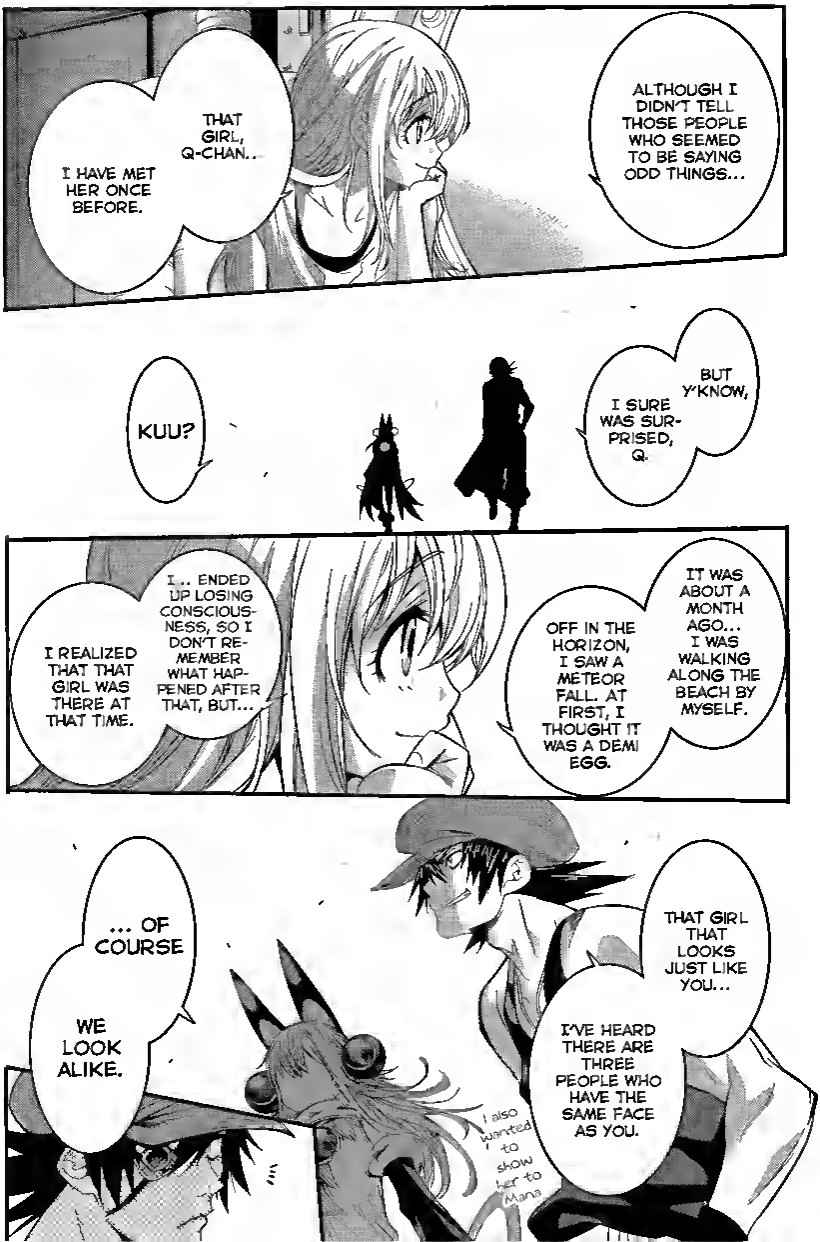
THEY'LL BE USED AS FOOD FOR THE DEMI, USEFUL ONLY AS DECOYS.
IF THAT WERE THE CASE, THEY WON'T BE TREATED AS PEOPLE.
FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT IF THE CRIMINAL WERE SOMEONE CAPTURED BY THE ARMY?

WENT AGAINST THE MILITARY POLICE TO GET THEM TO RELEASE HIS TWO DAUGHTERS.
...SPEAKING OF WHICH, ONE OF THE PRISONERS WHO WAS USED AS A DECOY
IF THEY'RE BEING TRANSFERRED SOMEWHERE, THEY WON'T BE MOVED AS "PEOPLE", BUT AS "LUGGAGE". IF IT WERE ME, I'D LOOK IN THE CARGO TRUCKS
BUT IF THEY DO SURVIVE, THEN WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE SURVIVORS?

SFX: TAH-DAH
Thanks.
NOW, THEN ...
SHUT YER FACE! JUST GET GOING ALREADY!
You too, Tiki!
YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY SMART, REM-NII.
I've changed my opinion of you!
... You're ...

ACTUALLY, I BOUGHT YOU SOMETHING EARLIER, AS MY GRATITUDE.
SINCE YOU'VE MORE THAN KEPT YOUR PROMISE, THESE DONUTS ARE FOR YOU.
WHY DON'T YOU AND THE GREAT I HEAD HOME 'BOUT NOW!
KUU!

SFX: CRUNCH CRUNCH
HM? WHAT'S UP, YUI?
HM? NOTHING, JUST THINKING ABOUT STUFF.
CHOCO CRISPY
...WHO IS HE?
Dad won't allow it
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
Y'KNOW, I...
SFX: WOOOSH


ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T TELL THOSE PEOPLE WHO SEEMED TO BE SAYING ODD THINGS...
THAT GIRL, Q-CHAN...
I HAVE MET HER ONCE BEFORE.
BUT Y'KNOW, I SURE WAS SURPRISED, Q.
KUU?
IT WAS ABOUT A MONTH AGO... I WAS WALKING ALONG THE BEACH BY MYSELF.
OFF IN THE HORIZON, I SAW A METEOR FALL. AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT WAS A DEMI EGG.
I... ENDED UP LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS, SO I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT, BUT...
I REALIZED THAT THAT GIRL WAS THERE AT THAT TIME.
THAT GIRL THAT LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU...
I'VE HEARD THERE ARE THREE PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE SAME FACE AS YOU.
I also wanted to show her to Mana
... OF COURSE
WE LOOK ALIKE.

SINCE THAT GIRL...
WHEN Q CAME TO THIS PLANET...
SHE WAS THE VERY FIRST PERSON Q MET.

OVER THE WESTERN PACIFIC, THERE WAS ONE CASE OF A METEORITE FALLING FROM A SHOWER.
Q'S FROM THERE.
HEY...
WAIT JUST A SECOND, Q! THEN THAT MEANS...
!
SO YOU JUST COPIED THAT GIRL'S APPEARANCE!?
JUST "WHAT" ARE YOU?
...REM.

Bz
Zt
A BUG
IS FLYING AROUND.
!

Ahahaha
giggle
giggle
Id-n't such a time!
WHAT'S WITH THIS JERK!
HUH?

SFX: STEP
...!?
THIS IS...
...SO YOU'VE COME.
SFX: AHAHAHAHA

SFX: STEPS

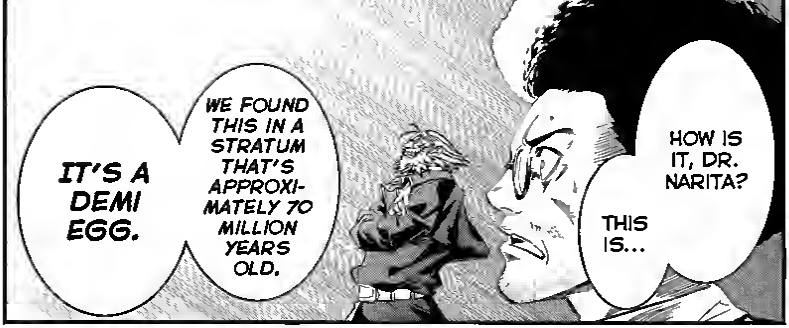
SFX OOOO
U7...!!
SORRY 'BOUT THAT, I BROKE YOUR DRONE.
... 'SUP, YUAN.
I THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT TIME YOU SHOWED UP.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, FORMER VICE CAPTAIN.
THIS TIME WE'VE BEEN MOBILIZED, SO WE'VE EXPEDITED THE POSE SEQUENCE.
ACKNOW-LEDGED.
Tch!
YOU HAVE UTILIZED "KUUGA".
THE REASON WE ARE HEADING IN THIS DIRECTION IS JUST AS YOU MAY HAVE IMAGINED.
I didn't really need that shirt back then either
Rem
Is it okay to eat them?

USING YOUR "KUUGA" AFTER YOU HAVE ALREADY WITHDRAWN FROM U7 IS A DIRE VIOLATION OF MILITARY REGULATIONS.
DEDICATED U7 WEAPONS ARE CONSTANTLY MONITORED BY THE COMPUTERS BACK AT HEADQUARTERS.
THIS IS WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO USE IT
That
Hmm.
I want to eat dinner out.
KILL
YOU USING THAT WEAPON MEANS YOU INTEND TO COME BACK TO US, DOESN'T IT!? RIGHT? RIGHT?
YO, REM.
THEREFORE, IN THIS PLACE, THE RECOVERY TEAM SHALL-
SUDDENLY
LET'S HUNT MONSTERS TOGETHER AGAIN!
IT'S SO FUN, y' KNOW!
.....
YOU COME BACK WITH US, AND YOU CAN SHOOT THAT GUN YOU LOVE SO MUCH ALL YOU WANT!!!

WELL
PERSONALLY, I AM OPPOSED TO YOUR RETURN.
YOU ARE A HINDRANCE TO CAPTAIN EL'S IDEOLOGY.
SO, WHAT'S YOUR RESPONSE?
SORRY, BUT...
.....
SFX STEP
SFX STEP

I DON'T YET KNOW JUST "WHAT" EXACTLY THIS "Q" GIRL IS...
BUT FOR THE TIME BEING,
I'VE GOT MYSELF A NEW PARTNER.
I AIN'T CALLING FOR YOU GUYS.

I'LL TRY
BELIEVING
IN HER.



★A DEEPENING MYSTERY...! JUST WHAT IS THE DEMI'S TRUE IDENTITY...?